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## ABSTRACT

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### 3 APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING OPTICAL RADIATION

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5       Apparatus for providing optical radiation (15) comprising a pump source (19)  
6 and at least one first amplifying waveguide (1), characterised in that the first  
7 amplifying waveguide (1) emits optical radiation (15) in excess of 1400nm when  
8 pumped by the pump source (19). In one embodiment, the pump source (19)  
9 comprises a plurality of laser diodes (3) and a plurality of second amplifying  
10 waveguides (2). The first amplifying waveguide (1) is pumped by the second  
11 amplifying waveguides (2). The second amplifying waveguides (2) are pumped by  
12 the laser diodes (3). The second amplifying waveguides (2) are configured to  
13 improve the beam quality of radiation emitted by the laser diodes (3).  
14 Advantageously, the apparatus can be configured such that the optical radiation (15)  
15 emitted by the first amplifying waveguide (1) has a higher brightness when the  
16 second amplifying waveguide (2) emits at a first wavelength.